

## COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

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SPECIAL ISSUE

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## ● A Short History of the "Early Issues" of The Colonial Newsletter ●

by J.C.Spilman

On the front page of the first issue of The Colonial Newsletter (CNL) appears the following statement:

At the recent ANA convention in Boston a few of us who are especially interested in Early American and State coins decided to establish a newsletter specifically for the specialist in these series.

and thus there was started a unique publication that continues today. The "few of us" mentioned in that first issue were Alfred D. Hoch, at that time a design engineer with the Raytheon Company in Wayland, Massachusetts, and two collectors with a sincere interest in "Colonial" American numismatics, Philip Greco and A.R. "Del" Beaudreau, each of whom prepared material for the first issue. Another contributor to that first issue was Ken Bressett, then Managing Editor of Whitman Publishing Company, whose contribution was a matter of faith and encouragement having no idea what the publication called The Colonial Newsletter might look like.

As Editor, Al Hoch published seven issues of The Colonial Newsletter during the years 1960, 1961 and 1962. These "Early Issues", Serial Numbers 1 through 7, were formatted on a small page approximately 5½x 8 inches in size (12 mo). The first two issues consisted of only four pages with an 8"x 10" photographic print folded and saddle stitched (stapled) in between. These photographic prints were made by Al Hoch on a contact printer purchased specifically for CNL at a cost of \$ 125.00 and were produced in his home on the kitchen table -- evidently Al had a very tolerant and understanding wife!

The third issue was similar to the first two, being printed by letterpress, but in this issue the photographic plate was reproduced by halftone process and run on the press along with the pages of text. Approximately fifty copies of each of these issues were printed with half being distributed to collectors and half retained for future sale.

At this point the cost of letterpress and high quality paper was having a serious adverse effect and the composition was changed to typewritten material photoreduced and printed by offset. The next four issues, Serial Numbers 4, 5, 6 & 7 were produced by this technique. By September of 1962 when Serial No. 7 (dated April-June 1962) appeared, the financial losses were out of hand and Al Hoch concluded that he had no other choice but to suspend publication.

On August 15, 1962 Al Hoch wrote to me with the suggestion that I take over publication of CNL. His suggestion was based on my interest in the Fugio Cents of 1787 and the two articles I had submitted for publication in two of the

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"Early Issues". After considerable correspondence with Al, and others, I agreed on May 15, 1963 to take over the management and publication of CNL.

The decision was based on a two part concept -- first, that CNL would serve as a relatively simple method for communication between myself and others similarly interested in early American numismatics, and -- secondly, that it could be economically produced in small quantities provided that an inexpensive publication format that I called "aerospace contemporary" was utilized. After all - it is hardly more trouble to produce duplicates of a letter than it is to compose and type the original letter!

This was during the year 1963, six years prior to man's first step on the surface of the Moon, and during a time that the Aerospace industry was constantly faced with the necessity of producing very large numbers of short-run reports, proposals, technical documentation and similar publications. The technique that had evolved was the use of standard 8½"x11" pages, printed single face (on one side only) and bound by any of several means ranging from a single staple in the upper left corner to three-ring notebooks and fancy spiral or comb bindings. Such pages could be produced on almost any sort of printing press or reproduction machine, or processes could be mixed on individual pages and special pages could be inserted as needed. Defective pages were quickly reprinted or replaced as necessary with no drastic effect on overall cost. Hence my term "aerospace contemporary" for this publication format.

During August, 1963, Serial No. 9, the first of the new Colonial Newsletters appeared in aerospace contemporary format. Serial No. 8 was not issued; the "Early Issues" produced by Al Hoch ended with Serial No. 7 and the new series edited by J.C.Spilman started with Serial No. 9. The missing Serial No. 8 (Volume 4, No. 1) was not a planned event -- it was a simple mistake, omitted inadvertently -- and has been a source of annoyance to ye Editor ever since. Accordingly, to fill that gap an assignment of two page numbers was made for Serial No. 8 when the sequential pagination was established during the year 1969 with Serial No. 27 at page 266, and those two pages have now been used for this short presentation of the history of the "Early Issues" of CNL. As various ones of the later issues have been reprinted from time to time in order to fill the demand for complete sets, we have added the sequential page numbers to the reprints.

Serial No. 9 was produced on a Xerox office copier. So was Serial No. 10 but with the inclusion of one page of halftone illustrations produced by photo-offset. Subsequent issues were produced entirely by photo-offset.

In reprinting these "Early Issues", as presented here, we have reformatted these issues to the "aerospace contemporary" format and style, corrected, revised and restructured several articles, and rearranged some articles and photographs for better readability. In the process these pages have lost their original appearance and can never be mistaken for originals which have, in their own right, become collector's items.

J.C.Spilman  
February 15, 1976